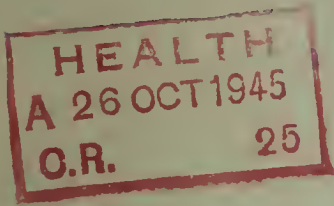


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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ending 31st December, 1944

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

ROCHDALE:
E. WRIGLEY & SONS LTD., PRINTERS, ROCHDALE.

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the instructions received from the Ministry of Health this Report has again been much curtailed. The Ministry have, however, requested that brief additional information should be recorded in respect of Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Diphtheria Immunisation and methods to improve the general standard of cleanliness. The usual arrangements have been continued to ensure that full statistics will be available after the war.

The first portion of the Report is statistical in character. The birth-rate is increased as compared with last year and again is considerably above the average for the previous ten years. The death-rate is well below the figure for 1943 and below the average for the previous ten years. The infantile mortality rate in 1943 was a record low figure and 1944, although not maintaining that low figure, does provide a figure lower than any of its predecessors other than 1943. In respect of the infantile mortality, which rate is always used as one indication of the health of the community, we may regard ourselves as very fortunate in maintaining during the war period, with the exception of 1940, a rate lower than our peace-time experience. Maternal deaths numbered five in 1942 and seven in 1943 and this year have fallen to one. With the increased number of births this may be regarded as a satisfactory figure.

Infectious diseases recorded an increased incidence as compared with the previous year. The increase was mainly accounted for by Measles with over 1,000 cases ; Whooping-cough and Diphtheria showed reduced figures and Tuberculosis and Pneumonia very similar figures to those in 1943. Measles was the only infectious disease to attain epidemic proportions which it did in October, the epidemic continuing up to the end of the year. Chicken-pox showed the same tendency in a very minor degree in the months of May and June. Due to this comparative absence of epidemic conditions the total deaths from all causes maintained a fairly steady seasonal level.

In spite of war-time difficulties of varying nature and degree, it was again possible to maintain a fairly normal working of the Health Services throughout the year.

The Municipal Pathological Laboratory established in 1943, completed a full year of successful development and working. Affiliation with the University Laboratory in Manchester was offered and accepted with advantages to the Laboratory and the public served by it.

At the end of the year an extension to the War-time Nursery at Castleton was ready for occupation.

As part of the Government Scheme for dealing with war casualties, nursing staff was transferred from Birch Hill Hospital in the second half of the year and two wards were closed down. This is reflected in the decreased number of

admissions to the hospital. At the same time the hospital took part in the Government Scheme for expectant mothers evacuated from the London area. Between this Scheme and the normal provision for the district, the number of births at the Maternity Home reached a new high total of 1,045. The scheme of controlled bookings for this Department worked reasonably well throughout the year.

In November arrangements whereby the Committee had been able to utilise Civil Defence personnel for the treatment of verminous persons, for the maintaining of the Ambulance Service and for the destruction of rats and mice under the Infestation Order of 1943, were brought to an end by the reduction of the Civil Defence organisation.

As from that date these three Services have been operated by the Health Committee with a staff appointed for the purpose. We were fortunate in being able to re-engage a nucleus of persons discharged from the Civil Defence organisation who had had experience of these Services.

A Preliminary Training School for nurses was commenced at Birch Hill Hospital in the early part of the year and has functioned satisfactorily.

After the changes noted in the last Report this hospital has been largely re-staffed so far as senior nursing staff is concerned. At all three Corporation Hospitals a great deal of difficulty has continued to be experienced in obtaining sufficient staff particularly on the domestic side.

Other staffing changes involved the appointment of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Tuberculosis Officer as Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and the appointment of a Resident Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital.

Considerable attention was paid throughout the year to the Health Committee's share in the Borough's schemes for post-war development. So far as this Committee is concerned the scheme revolves round additions to Birch Hill Hospital, the provision of a new Isolation Hospital and of "ad hoc" Welfare Centres. Since much of the planning of a Local Authority in respect of its Health Services will depend upon the Government's attitude to Regional planning, the schemes can not be brought beyond the stage of broad outline.

In February the Central Council for Health Education carried out a lecture campaign in factories in connection with venereal diseases prevention by arrangement with the Health Committee.

At the end of the year the Committee was engaged in negotiations regarding the Rochdale Infirmary Contributory Scheme as part of the co-ordination of Hospital Services.

Although 1944 did not see the end of hostilities, the completion of this Report has been unavoidably delayed to a date which has brought peace in Europe and the Pacific, and it is inevitable that the commentary is made with

the knowledge that much of the stress and strain is over. Public Health has weathered the storm in a manner of which neither the Local nor the National agencies need be ashamed. The early years of peace will bring their own difficulties, but we now know that they can be surmounted successfully. Public Health Departments should always be advancing, planning ahead, endeavouring to keep a step ahead of public opinion ; they cannot survive by mere routine working. Not yet can planning for expansion have full sway, but we can now take time to consider the very useful lessons of war time and seek a sure foundation for that larger step when it can be taken. Within a reasonable scope of years we can now envisage vast strides being made in the science and art of living in its widest sense. Unfortunately the wastage of war in time and material will force Authorities to concentrate their energies on bringing up-to-date the rudiments of hygiene on which action still lags behind pre-war legislation. Problems of housing loom largest in this group, but are not the only problem.

Fortunately this is not the whole story. Advances and improvements have been made even during war time and need not all await the end of re-housing. In each war time report I have been happy to indicate some items, large or small, of progress outside the routine day to day maintenance of pre-war services.

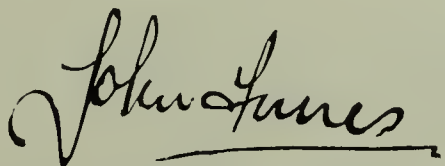
In the same spirit I wish to acknowledge most sincerely the willing assistance I have received from the staffs of this Department, both permanent and temporary. The former have readily shouldered extra responsibilities and the latter have most loyally endeavoured to uphold the traditions of the Service. Special mention must be made of Mr. Fred Schofield who at the end of the year officially retired from the position of Lay Administrative Officer which he had held for many years in a Department which he had served faithfully and well for 42 years. An association of this nature is not lightly broken, nor the break easily made good.

In conclusion I would express to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Health Committee, thanks once again for much encouragement to myself and to the Department throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
10th September, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1944.

Area (in acres)	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Civilian Population, mid-year 1944	81,380
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	25,487
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,240
Rateable Value,	£573,820

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births.—Legitimate	1,237	629	608
Illegitimate	83	40	43
	<u>1,320</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>651</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 16.2

Still-births 49—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 35

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	1,174	570	604

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 14.4

Deaths from Maternal Causes 1.

Puerperal Sepsis 0	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.73
Other Maternal Causes 1		

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	50
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	48

	No. of Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population	
	1943	1944	1943	1944
Measles	1	1	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	2	0	0.02	0.00
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	7	2	0.08	0.02
Cancer	186	169	2.30	2.07

Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief at the end of December, 1944, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1943, has been kindly supplied by the Director of Social Welfare :—

	1944 Week ending 30-12-44	1943 Week ending 25-12-43
No. of persons in receipt of Institutional Relief (excluding cases in Mental Hospitals)	375	353
No. of Persons relieved (excluding non-resident persons and vagrants) ...	755	723
Amount of Out-Relief granted	£589 8s. 6d.	£507 4s. 0d.

National Health Insurance.

The Clerk to the Insurance Committee has kindly supplied the following information as to the number of insured persons in the Borough and the cost of medicines supplied to the insured population :—

	Year ended Dec. 31st, 1944		1943	
(1) Total number of Insured Persons in the Borough on October 1st	47,507	...	48,281	...
(2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population	236,208	...	254,091	...
(3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population ...	£13,213	...	£13,072	...

Unemployment.

Figures relating to unemployment in Rochdale are unfortunately not available for publication during the war period.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 9,553 acres.

Population.

The Census Return of April, 1931, gave the population as 90,278 and in June, 1938, the Registrar General's estimate was 91,290.

The reduced figure of 81,380 is given by the Registrar General as his estimate of the civilian population to be used for statistical purposes for the year 1944. This is the sixth special war-time estimate, that for 1943 being 81,550.

Live Births.

1,320 live births (males 669, females 651) were registered, as compared with 1,268 in 1943 and an average of 1,129 for the ten years 1934-1943.

Illegitimate births numbered 83, as against 80 in 1943, and an average of 67 in the previous five years.

Still Births.

49 were registered as compared with 45 in 1943, and an average of 48 in the previous five years.

The Live Birth-rate was equal to 16.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 15.5 per 1,000 the previous year, and 15.3 in 1942. The year 1939 had the lowest rate ever registered for the Borough, namely 11.0 per 1,000. The average birth-rate for the ten years 1934–1943 was 12.7 per 1,000.

Deaths.

The deaths registered show a decrease with 1,174 (males 570, females 604) as against 1,324 in the year 1943, and 1,282 in 1942.

The death-rate from all causes was 14.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 16.2 in 1943, and an average of 15.3 during the ten years 1934-1943.

The chief causes of death are given below in comparison with the previous year.

						Year 1944		Year 1943
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	42
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	46
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	169	...	186
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.			...	...	...	147	...	114
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	325	...	352
Other Circulatory Diseases			...	...	...	57	...	50
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	92	...	142
Pneumonia (all forms)	...		...	...	...	31	...	58
Nephritis...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	33
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-								
mature Birth, etc.			...	...	...	48	...	33
				TOTAL	...	958	..	1056

Percentage of total deaths registered during
the year

Table II. Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1944, while Table I. gives comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years.

Infant Mortality.

There were 67 deaths registered under one year of age, equal to a rate of 50 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with 58 deaths and a rate of 46 last year. This increase was more than accounted for by deaths occurring in the group Congenital Debility, Malformation, Birth Injuries, while a still further decrease in deaths due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis was noted.

The average for the ten years 1934–1943 was 67 per 1,000 live births. The table given below shows the comparative figures for the previous ten years :—

Year	Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Year	Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births
1934	91	78	1939	55	55
1935	93	85	1940	96	89
1936	76	69	1941	76	67
1937	58	53	1942	90	71
1938	69	63	1943	58	46

In last year's report it was commented that the 1943 Infantile Mortality rate of 46 per 1,000 live births was the lowest ever recorded in Rochdale. While the present figure is higher it is still the second lowest on record. As some indication of the progress which has been attained and maintained in spite of Total War it may be recalled that the Infantile Mortality rate for Rochdale in 1918 was 116 per 1,000 births.

Comparative Mortality and Birth-rates.

	Death-rate All Causes per 1,000 of population	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
ROCHDALE	14.4	16.2	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	13.7	20.3	52
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000) ...	12.4	20.9	44
ENGLAND AND WALES	11.6	17.6	46

These provisional figures are corrected only for transfers and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

Zymotic Diseases.

The principal zymotic diseases (excluding influenza) caused 6 deaths, compared with 21 last year.

						Year 1944		Year 1943
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	7
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
TOTAL ...						6	...	21

Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases showed a decrease to 132 as compared with 197 in 1943. Pneumonia caused 31 deaths (58), Bronchitis 92 deaths (142) and other respiratory affections 9 deaths (18).

Cancer.

The arrangement with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of cancer has been continued during the year.

Deaths classified to this cause and shown in age groups below numbered 169 (males 80, females 89), as against 186 the previous year :—

		Total Deaths	under 15 yrs.	15-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
Year 1943	...	186	—	13	87	86
Year 1944	...	169	—	21	71	77

The death-rate was 2.07 per 1,000 as against 2.30 per 1,000 of the estimated population for the previous year.

No special investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease.

General Provision of Health Services.

Nursing in the Home.

Arrangements continued throughout the year with the District Nursing Association, as described in the last two reports.

The Association staff paid 2,264 visits to 194 Public Health cases during the year ; the cases being mainly children under five years of age, patients suffering from Pneumonia, from Tuberculosis and from conditions arising out of Pregnancy and Child Birth. This work made a valuable and much appreciated contribution to the operation of the Public Health Sections concerned.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

As previously outlined the town is served by the Domiciliary Medical Services Scheme on the Panel system, except for the Wardleworth and Wuerdle Wards, where a permanent District Medical Officer still holds office. The number covered by the Panel Scheme on the 30th December, 1944, was 1,129.

Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.

These cases are accommodated at the Birch Hill Institution where 206 beds are provided for this type of case.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Health Committee operates the whole of the Ambulance Service which deals with removals to Corporation Hospitals and other Hospitals from the County Borough and certain outside districts by agreement.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Arrangements remain as in 1943.

There are five Centres in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare maintained by the Local Authority, with fourteen sessions each week ; also one centre each in connection with (a) Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis, and (b) School Medical Inspection.

The work in connection with the Corporation clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections of this report.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The new Municipal Laboratory, in the grounds of Birch Hill Hospital, opened in 1943, has been in full working during the year. It is now able to undertake all Bacteriological and Bio-chemical work for this and other Corporation Departments and is available for outside bodies when required. In addition it serves as the Depot for the Local Blood Transfusion Service and for Penicillin Therapy.

Dr. C. H. Adderley is to be congratulated upon the painstaking manner in which he has built up this service step by step in spite of war time difficulties of many kinds.

The following table shows the work done by the Laboratory. The unit value shown in respect of the Laboratory is primarily designed for costing purposes, but is included here to give some idea of the relative amount of time and material spent in the different classes of specimens :—

Sent By	Specimens	Unit Value
Public Health Office, including Swabs etc. from Practitioners	772	3556
Maternity and Child Welfare	943	1211
Tuberculosis Dispensary	110	253
School Medical Service	35	124
Marland Hospital	1868	4533
Springfield Sanatorium	273	586
Birch Hill Hospital	4640	22097
Private	221	499
Others	64	544
TOTAL	8926	33403

The bacteriological examination of water and of milk is included in the work of the above laboratory while chemical analysis of water is carried out by the Public Analyst ;

Milk—for Tubercle Bacilli (Animal Inoculation)	121 samples.
for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and Reductase Test	148 „
Water—for Bacterial Count	37 „

(b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In addition to the examinations included in the work of the above Laboratory 640 specimens from persons suspected of suffering from venereal diseases were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and 509 specimens were examined by the Medical Officers of the treatment Centre.

(c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst has examined 202 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts, as against 74 last year.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are two dwelling-houses registered as Maternity Homes and two as Nursing Homes for medical and surgical cases :—

59 Boundary Street—two patients	} Maternity.
62 King Street East—one patient	
183 Drake Street—eight patients—Medical and Surgical.	
The Law Nursing Home, Manchester Road—34 patients—Medical.	

No adverse reports have been received regarding the conduct of these Nursing Homes.

In a compact area such as Rochdale, there is no possibility of an un-registered Nursing Home being in existence without the knowledge of the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

The Public and voluntary hospitals services in the district provide 1,052 beds for sick, as shown below :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS—

Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical ...	417	beds
do. Maternity	58	„
Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc.	206	„
Marland Hospital—Infectious Diseases... ..	120	„
Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (females)	36	„
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (males)... ..	55	„

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS—

Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical) ...	110	„
The Memorial Home—Orthopaedic	50	„

In addition to this number arrangements have been continued during the year to send selected cases of tuberculosis to various sanatoria, i.e. Crossley Sanatorium, Delamere ; and the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Three beds are also retained at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital for cases of smallpox which may occur within the Borough.

The General Hospital, Birch Hill.

This hospital has accommodation for 475 patients, including 417 beds for general medical and surgical and 58 for maternity cases, and serves the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining County districts with a total estimated population of over 123,000.

During the year 3,977 patients were admitted to the hospital, excluding the 1,003 infants born in the hospital, in comparison with 4,317 admissions and 973 live births in 1943. The reduction in the total figures reflects the action taken by the Ministry of Health when two wards were closed down and the staff diverted to Hospitals designated for the reception of military wounded

at the beginning of the Normandy campaign. These arrangements were maintained for several months. The Maternity wards were not affected and in fact the Hospital took part in the Emergency Maternity Hospital Scheme to assist Maternity Schemes in South East England in the Autumn. As a result of these two factors the Maternity Section shows a modest increase as compared with last year. The pressure on this department remained very heavy and controlled booking had to be maintained.

The following statistical summary provides an indication of the volume of work done at Birch Hill Hospital.

	Year 1944	Year 1943
Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital)...	4980	5290
Number of women confined in hospital	1029	1002
Number of live births	1003	973
Number of still-births	42	48
Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e. under 4 weeks of age)	37	22
Total number of deaths amongst children under one year	56	58
Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital	4	6
Total number of deaths	483	588
Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital)...	4481	4713
Duration of stay of patients—		
(a) Four weeks or less	3822	3799
(b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks	859	1005
(c) Exceeding thirteen weeks	283	497
Number of beds occupied, average during the year (highest 418 on 5/5/44, lowest 284 on 23/7/44)	344	369
Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations)	1355	1395
Number of abdominal sections	486	516
Number of pathological and microscopical examinations	4640	3732

The only important development at the hospital has been the commencement of a Preliminary Training School for nurses, which opened in April, with 6 pupils. A second session of 13 pupils opened in September. The usual war-time difficulties in staffing continue.

Dental Work.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Senior Ashworth, Dental Surgeon at the General Hospital, for the following statement of dental work carried out at the hospital and the adjoining Public Assistance Institution during the year :—

Visits to Birch Hill Hospital	...	...	...	...	59
Extractions	...	...	...	...	206
Fillings	...	...	...	...	1
Repairs	...	...	...	...	2

“Six General Anæsthetics, other than Nitrous Oxide, have been administered by the Medical Officers for the extraction of teeth.”

Blood Transfusion Service.

A public campaign for donors was held in July. Owing to the then active stage of war operations a very satisfactory response was obtained. By co-operation with the Regional Services it was possible to commence sessions immediately with gratifying results in attendances. This increase in the Donor Panel also rendered it easier to provide for the needs of local Hospitals.

Joint Consultative Committee.

The Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Health Committee and of the Rochdale Infirmary, appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating the hospital services, have continued their regular meetings, and many matters of mutual interest affecting general hospital administration have been discussed.

Hospital Recommends.

The Corporation are able to supply a limited number of “Recommends” for admission to the following institutions :—

- Manchester Royal Eye Hospital ;
- Manchester Royal Infirmary ;
- Rochdale Infirmary ;
- Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton.

Applications for these “Recommends” should be made to the Public Health Offices and should be accompanied by a medical certificate or written request from the hospital concerned.

Marland Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium.

The work at these institutions is referred to in a later part of this report.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Births—Public Health Act, 1936.

There were 1,395 births notified as belonging to Rochdale—1,367 by midwives, 25 by doctors, and 3 by other persons. These figures include 720 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

Health Visitors.

The staff of Health Visitors was reduced from a normal six to four for most of the year. These four Health Visitors have made a total of 8,881 visits mainly to children under five, 7,042 visits, and to expectant mothers 124 visits. The Health Visitors are also in regular attendance at the Welfare Centres, Nursery Schools and the War-time Nursery.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The five centres in different parts of the town have continued with their nine weekly sessions.

The total attendances of children of all ages at all Clinics were 28,963 as compared with 30,241 in 1943. It is a matter for regret that there has been a decrease both in total attendances and in the number of children who attended for the first time (968 as compared with 1,009) but the figures have not dropped below years previous to 1943. We can feel that through five complete years of war-time transport, housekeeping and over-time work, these clinics have maintained their hold on the parents of Rochdale. With easier conditions on the one hand and better staffing on the other we can look forward with confidence to a steady expansion. That expansion will bring its own problems, however, since none of the premises used at present for Children's Clinics can be regarded as satisfactory in amenities or accommodation. New and properly constructed premises throughout the town are a real necessity which can wait only on labour and materials becoming available. Welfare Clinics, particularly Infant Welfare Clinics, can only be run successfully in buildings adapted to their peculiar needs and under conditions which themselves teach by suggestion the principles of hygiene.

Centre	New Cases admitted during 1944	Total Attendances of Children			Average Attendance per Clinic Session	No. of Medical examinations by M.O.
		under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs		
(a) Baillie Street * (Wardleworth)	153	2,516	852	881	† 43 (49)	1,189
(b)*St. Luke's ...	260	3,687	1,428	1,023	65 (69)	1,516
(c)*St. Clement's ...	177	3,903	1,598	1,662	71 (71)	1,441
(d) Baillie Street * (Castleton) ...	194	3,037	975	803	48 (47)	1,209
(e) Castleton ...	136	2,822	1,238	1,167	54 (55)	837
(f) Norden ...	48	750	316	305	31 (35)	462
Totals ...	968	16,715	6,407	5,841	—	6,654
Corresponding Figures 1943 ...	1,009	17,039	6,458	6,744	—	7,158

* Two Clinic Sessions per week. † Figures in brackets are for 1943.

The number of children who attended for the first time and who at the date of their first visit were under one year of age was 871 or 63 per cent of the notified live births, as against the 72 per cent in 1943.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the Schools Medical Services Clinic.

The members of the Ladies' Executive Committee and co-opted voluntary helpers have continued to give their time and assistance at the various clinics and in other ways, for which service the Health Committee have recorded their appreciation and thanks.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

We are indebted to the local branch of this society and to their Inspector for their ready and willing co-operation with this department in dealing with cases of neglect, uncleanness and similar conditions coming within the purview, of the Medical Officer and Health Visitors throughout the year.

Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.

The scheme for the distribution of milk and food preparations free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers, and to children under five years of age was very materially altered by the National Milk Scheme which came into operation in July, 1940. This scheme was later extended to include the distribution of dried milk and of vitamin preparations. The closest contact is maintained between the Maternity and Child Welfare Department and the Milk Office to avoid overlapping and to assist parents and children in every way. The Local Authority's Scheme is now largely confined to special cases.

Mid-Day Meals.

No applications were received for the supply of mid-day meals free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Continued pressure was used to further this Scheme by all forms of propaganda and especially by personal approach. The time has come when Immunisation has proved its own case and no persuasion should be necessary beyond simple reminders to the forgetful. In addition to Birthday Cards, such direct approach can be and is made through the Clinics, Schools, Nursery Schools and Hospitals. In 1943, 881 children under five received a course of Immunisation and in 1944 the number immunised in this group was 668.

Further mention is made of the scheme in the sections dealing with Infectious Diseases and School Medical Services.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

There are now six clinic sessions each week—four ante-natal clinics at Baillie Street Council School and one at Birch Hill Maternity Home, while one post-natal clinic is held at Baillie Street School.

The number of women attending these clinics is set out in the following summary.

		Rochdale Borough		County Districts		Total	
		1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943
(1) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS							
(a) No. of Expectant Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	868	850	109	109	977	959
	Birch Hill	—	—	104	83	104	83
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	4,685	4,637	596	586	5,281	5,223
	Birch Hill	—	—	570	465	570	465
(c) Average attendances per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	23.0	23.0	3.0	2.9	26	25.9
	Birch Hill	—	—	11.0	9.0	11	9
(2) POST-NATAL CLINIC							
(a) No. of Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	236	243	40	70	276	313
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	384	398	59	80	443	478
(c) Average attendance per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	8.0	8.3	1.2	1.6	9.2	9.9

The 868 Rochdale patients who attended for the first time at the Antenatal Clinics during the year represent 60 per cent. of the total notified live-births and still-births in this Borough as compared with 65 per cent. in the previous year. In following up these patients the Health Visitors paid over 124 home visits.

X-Ray Facilities.

The X-ray facilities at Birch Hill Hospital are available when the Medical Officer desires further information as regards any patient attending the Antenatal Clinic.

Consultant Services.

Dr. K. A. Evans continued to act as Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the Maternity Services under this Authority as a Part-time Officer.

Emergency Maternity Unit.

This unit is available at short notice night and day for service within the Borough or adjoining County Districts (Tel. No. 8294, Birch Hill Hospital). This service was called upon on one occasion during the year.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Children attending the Child Welfare Clinic and requiring expert opinion or treatment are referred to the Smith Street Clinic carried on by the Crippled Children's Union. Dr. Bateman's services in this connection are always readily available and his help is gratefully acknowledged.

Maternity Outfits.

One outfit was loaned for confinement at home during the year. Sterilised accouchement outfits may be obtained at the Child Welfare Centres at cost price or free in necessitous cases.

Dental Services.

The joint arrangement with the School Dental Services has been continued. Dental treatment in the nature of extractions and small fillings necessary for clearing septic conditions was given to 59 mothers and 8 children. In addition 5 necessitous and expectant mothers were supplied with part or full dentures through a dentist of their own choice.

Medical Assistance.

Midwives practising on the District requested the services of a medical practitioner in 241 maternity cases and in 42 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 217 and 37 respectively.

In 58 cases the medical fee was paid in whole or part by the Local Authority amounting in the aggregate to £101 as against £115 the previous year.

Midwifery Fees.

The Local Authority pay the midwifery fee in cases where the family circumstances are poor and where there is no maternity benefit available. During the year the fee was paid or allowed in whole or part in 16 cases.

Maternity Home.

There were 1,138 maternity cases admitted to Birch Hill Maternity Home, 899 from Rochdale and 239 from surrounding districts, as against 1,118 in 1943 and 1,055 in 1942. The actual number of women confined was 1,029, of which 816 were Rochdale, 212 Lancashire County Area and 1 from other districts.

Midwives.

12 midwives gave notice of intention to practice in this Borough ; 8 of these are engaged as Municipal Midwives, while the remaining 4 are engaged in private practice. Comparative figures of the year's district midwifery work by Municipal Midwives are given below :—

					Year 1944	Year 1943
Cases attended—as Midwife	...	...	...	...	447	365
as Maternity Nurse...	...	...	...	...	63	26
Visits during lying-in period—as Midwife	...	...	...	...	7,270	5,662
as Maternity Nurse...	...	...	...	...	756	348
Ante-Natal (Home Visits)—	...	...	...	...	2,356	2,071
Miscellaneous Visits—Ante-Natal Clinic, etc.	...	...	...	...	566	580

The 4 midwives in private practice attended 48 cases as midwives during the past year and 13 cases as Maternity Nurses.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

9 cases of puerperal pyrexia were reported, 8 of which were removed to Marland Hospital for treatment. During the previous year 8 cases were reported.

Maternal Mortality.

Only one maternal death recorded during the year, with a maternal mortality rate of 0.73 per 1,000 total births (live and still-births). This compares very favourably with last year's figure of 7 deaths, with a mortality rate of 5.33.

The following figures show the maternal mortality in other towns as compared with Rochdale.

AREA	MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Live and Still Births		
	1944	1943	Average 5 years 1938-42
ROCHDALE	0.73	5.33	3.18
Average 12 neighbouring manufacturing towns ...	2.57	* 2.22	3.69
Administrative County of Lancaster	2.18	2.64	3.33
England and Wales ...	1.93	2.29	2.43

* Average 11 manufacturing towns.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases reported as against 2 cases in 1943 and 8 in 1942. In both cases there was no impairment of vision.

Child Life Protection.

On the 31st December, 1944, there were 26 persons registered as receiving children for reward. The number of children concerned was 29.

WAR-TIME NURSERY, CASTLETON.

War-time Nursery, Castleton.

The number on the register was 40 in January, 1944 and 42 in December, 1944, 15 being under two years. The average attendance for the whole year was 20 over two years and 10 under two years. In November and December the attendances fell considerably owing to an outbreak of measles which affected 36 children, the average attendances for November being 14 and December 9. These two months reduced the average yearly figure.

The children improved noticeably with the rest, good food, fresh air and play hours ; the average gain in weight for six months being :—5 months to 1 year—6 lbs. ; 1 year to 2 years—4 lbs. ; 2 years to 3 years—3 lbs. ; 3 years to 4 years—2½ lbs. ; 4 years to 5 years—3 lbs.

The cases referred for special treatment were :—

Eye Specialist	...	...	...	...	3
School Dentist	...	...	...	...	1
Surgeon	...	...	...	...	2
Heart Specialist	...	...	...	...	1
U.V.R. Therapy	...	...	...	...	6

The W.V.S. have, as formerly, kindly conveyed the children of the working mothers to the Clinics.

The age of the youngest child in the Nursery is 8 months, whereas in 1943 it was 3 months, 7 children having been in the Nursery since the opening.

The Medical Officer visits each week in order to examine new entrants and any special cases. In addition, a medical inspection is carried out quarterly at which all routine cases are re-examined.

The Matron of the War-time Nursery makes a point of discussing with each mother once a week the progress of her child, in addition to day to day talks. The Health Visitor for the district attends once per week and is able to act as additional link between the school and homes of the children.

At Christmas time gifts of toys were received from Mrs. Wycherley and the Armourers Section of R.C.A.F. 424 Squad., and distributed to the children.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

Water Supply.

- (i) The water supply of each of the several parts of the area has been satisfactory (a) in quality, (b) in quantity.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations do not appear to have been made of the raw water during the past year but, seeing that the water from each of the reservoirs is treated, the water going into supply has been bacteriologically examined ; 33 samples having been examined during the year.
- (iii) Whilst the raw water from each of the reservoirs would be liable to have plumbo-solvent action, during the year, no dissolved lead has been found in any of them. The pH value of the water as it goes into supply is raised by the addition of lime water and is, no doubt, the explanation why on no occasion has lead been found in solution.

- (iv) No special form of contamination has had to be dealt with during the past year, but practically all inhabited buildings have been removed from the gathering grounds. Such few occupied premises as still remain will, no doubt, be acquired in the reasonably near future.
- (v) No dwellinghouses, nor any part of the population are normally supplied by means of standpipes. The number of privately-owned sources of water supply is not large.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works Extensions is completed and the whole plant is in operation. The raw sewage is screened after grit removal and is then passed through a Primary Sedimentation Tank which is cleaned mechanically. After secondary sedimentation one half of the sewage passes to the new Activated Sludge Plant and the other half is pumped on to the bacteria beds. The Activated Sludge Plant has been constructed on the Kessener system and is producing a good effluent.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in this area and any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor are reported to this Board for their attention.

Public Cleansing.

There were no important changes in the refuse collection, disposal or street cleansing services during the year.

Salvage was as important as ever during 1944, the sixth year of the War, and was again pursued vigorously by the Cleansing Department.

The demand for bone products for the manufacture of explosives, lubricants, soap, glue, animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers became more urgent. To intensify the recovery of household bones in Rochdale, 1,200 bone bins, which were made at the Cleansing Department from old army petrol tins, were attached to the communal kitchen waste bins throughout the Borough, and the yield of bones was thereby increased about 150%.

With a view to stimulating public interest in the salvaging of waste paper an exhibition—"Paper Presents Arms"—was held in November. The exhibition created great interest and visitors were impressed by the hundreds of different uses to which paper has been put during the War.

The conversion of kitchen waste to feeding stuffs for pigs and poultry was continued and on many occasions the demand for "pudding" exceeded the supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

641 Preliminary or Informal Notices for the abatement of nuisances and for the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below.

The statement also includes works carried out at factories and food storage premises, etc., following the service of preliminary notices but excludes work carried out under the Housing Acts.

NATURE OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH	Nos.
HOUSES—	
Verminous dwellings disinfested	19
Dirty Houses limewashed or cleansed	35
Repairs to roofs, floors, walls, eavestroughing, rainwater pipes, chimneys, and general repairs to brickwork or stonework (including dampness) and repair or renewal of house fittings...	1082
Overcrowding	—
YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—	
Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc.	24
Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed	14
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—	
Water-closet buildings repaired	43
Pail closets and water-closets cleansed	4
Water-closet fittings repaired	50
DRAINS—	
Main or branch drains repaired or cleared	75
GENERAL—	
Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises used for the preparation or storage of food	41
Absence of, or unsatisfactory condition of, sanitary accommodation at factories or workplaces	12
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied	3

Probably one of the most exacting duties falling upon this Department during recent years has been the investigation of applications for re-housing with a view to the presentation of priority cases to the Housing Committee.

During the year 184 houses have been inspected and reported upon in this connection. After inspection and report each case is considered individually by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector in accordance with certain broad principles, before being submitted to the Housing Committee for final decision.

In the present stage of the housing problem it is obvious that a large number of cases which would normally be regarded as deserving cases have to be excluded from the priority lists.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The extension of work under this Act made necessary by the issue of the Infestation Order, 1943, required a considerably increased staff. In addition to the part-time rat catcher six members of the Civil Defence staffs acted as rodent operatives and continued to do so until Civil Defence was disbanded. Thereafter one of these persons succeeded the part-time operative and three others were given temporary appointments.

193 dwelling houses and 287 business premises were treated during the year. This required 2,678 visits and the estimated kill was at least 1,600 rats.

The treatment of sewers was started in July. Squads of men were engaged by the Highways Department and supervised by our rodent operatives. 2,140 manholes were treated and the estimated kill was at least 10,000 rats. The value of this work has been shown by the reduction in the number of complaints from several districts which previously gave continual trouble.

Shops Acts, 1912 and 1934.

No notices under these Acts were issued during 1944.

Offensive Trades.

The number of premises at which these trades are carried on in the Borough is as follows :—

Tripe boiling ...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongering	...	...	...	...	2
Knackers yard (bone boiling)	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	...	5

These premises have been visited regularly during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

The approximate accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1944, was as follows :—

Fresh-water carriage system	...	...	26,125
Pail Closets ...	...	...	1,571
Waste-water Closets...	...	...	1,620
Privy Middens	...	...	43

The tables showing the progress of conversion of pail closets have been omitted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Retail Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 168. These have been regularly inspected, and cleansing and limewashing have been carried out after intimation by the Inspectors in 41 cases.

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained and it has not been found necessary to issue any abatement notices in this respect.

Workshops.

259 inspections of workshops have been carried out during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

35 smoke observations of one half-hour each were taken during the year and 6 contraventions of the Act were reported to the Committee.

In 4 cases the appropriate notice was served on the firms concerned and in one other case a letter of warning was sent by the Town Clerk.

The remaining case was one of the firms which had previously been served with a notice. Normally this second offence would have resulted in prosecution, but the boiler plant was in course of reconstruction to comply with suggestions made by the Ministry of Fuel and Power after our previous complaint and this temporarily made the emission of dense smoke unavoidable.

Here again it can be said that the position is more hopeful at the time of the writing of this Report than it was at the end of the year which this Report covers.

Certain restrictions have been removed by the Government and the Department is within sight of a solution of its staffing difficulties, so that closer supervision can be maintained.

There still remain problems connected with the difficulty of obtaining suitable boiler fuel and of renewing or replacing steam raising plant, problems which cannot be immediately solved.

In the interval, however, there has been a very definite change in viewpoint on the problem of Smoke Abatement. The problem is not entirely one of control of factory chimneys, nor are the ill effects of a smoky atmosphere in respect of property destruction to be considered only under terms of shortening

of the life of public buildings. The effect of a smoky pall on health has long been realised, due to the cutting out of the sun's rays and to the continual breathing of polluted air.

In common with other Public Health problems emphasis is, however, moving more and more into the homes and lives of the people and it must be realised that the presence of smoke-polluted air causes much ill-health indirectly due, for instance, to the closure of windows at night to prevent access of polluted air instead of throwing them open to admit clean air.

The wastage of time and materials in the ordinary household must also be appreciated. The housewife in an industrial area under present conditions has to spend a considerable portion of her time washing away the results of a smoke laden atmosphere and at the same time has to devote a considerable portion of her income to the replacement of fabrics destroyed by smoke and by continual washing. In certain processes in certain industries dirt money is paid to employees subject to particularly dirty working conditions. It might be said that every housewife in an industrial area is entitled to a similar allowance.

On the other hand all householders must realise their own share in the pollution of their own atmosphere caused by the burning of raw coal on open fires. The tradition of the open coal fire may die hard, but that type of heat production must be abandoned in favour of cleaner forms of heat production. This necessity is now seen to arise not only from the point of view of the immediate consumer, but from the point of view of national economy.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the nation cannot afford to burn away in this lavish manner a valuable national asset and to disperse available by-products in the form of atmospheric pollution.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are nine of these premises now registered, the licence of one was given up during the year, partly as a result of action by the Department.

The accommodation provided now comprises 55 rooms containing 601 beds.

Regular visits of inspection have been made and four informal notices were served during the year. In one case it was found necessary to threaten severe action unless conditions improved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There were 103 farms on the register at the end of 1944. These were visited regularly by the Dairies Inspector.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 298, while the number retailing unbottled milk is 4. With the exception of two, these are registered dairies. All the premises have been inspected regularly during the year.

Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation of and Sale of Food-stuffs.

During the year 3,108 visits have been made to this type of premises.

Rochdale Corporation Act, 1937.

This Act deals with the registration of premises for the preparation and sale of various foodstuffs. No premises were registered under the provisions of the Act during the year.

Meat and Food Supply.

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for sale, and over 110 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human food.

MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1915.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Tuberculous Milk.

During the year 140 samples of milk have been taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. These samples represented the milk of about 2,660 cows and were taken in batches monthly. Of the samples, 73 were from Rochdale Borough farmers and 67 from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be tubercular was :—

From Rochdale farmers ...	...	7
From County farmers ...	...	4

In connection with the positive samples the necessary steps in respect of the infected animals were taken by the Ministry of Agriculture under the revised arrangement which came into force on the 1st April, 1938.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

202 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis as compared with 74 during the previous year.

Borough Analyst's Annual Report.

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst for the following extract from his Annual Report :—

“During the year 1944, I have analysed 202 samples of food, etc., consisting “of 181 milks, 5 sauces, 2 each of baking powder and mustard, and 1 each of

“margarine, semolina, dessert mould, cocoa, bun flour, soup, steamed pudding mixture, salad dressing powder, Etox cubes, chocolate spread, chocolate cup, and sage and onion stuffing.”

“Ten samples of milk were reported against for reason of adulteration with extraneous water, to an extent varying from 2.7 per cent to 36.7 per cent, whilst five further samples were found to be deficient in milk-fat to an extent varying from 6.6 per cent to 12.6 per cent, when referred to the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939. An additional five samples were found to be naturally deficient in non-fatty solids, but the application of the Freezing Point (Hortvet) test proved the absence of any extraneous water, and the samples were reported as of genuine, but slightly abnormal quality. The examination of numerous samples of milk supplied to the schools, etc. in the Borough showed that, apart from two samples which were deficient in milk-fat, the supplies were generally of good quality. All the samples of milk submitted were free from preservatives and colouring matter.”

“The miscellaneous dry goods were of sound commercial quality and the samples of baking powder and mustard complied with the requirements of the appropriate Statutory Rules and Orders issued by the Ministry of Food.”

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

Arrangements made during 1942 for the use of Cleansing Stations at the First Aid Posts set up in the district continued during the year. The cleansing has been carried out by the First Aid Post staff under the supervision of trained nursing personnel of the Public Health Department. The general working is under the supervision of a District Sanitary Inspector.

To suit all persons concerned, sessions have been arranged in the morning and in the afternoon of each day throughout the week. Evening sessions are available as required for those engaged in industry.

The following table shows the number of persons cleansed at these Stations :—

	1944	1943
Scabies	1698	1695
Verminous Conditions	63	48
Total ...	1761	1743

At the same time arrangements have been made whereby all reports of verminous conditions, including Scabies, are collected in one register in the Public Health Department. These reports may come from the Education

Department, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, owners or occupiers of premises and other persons or organisations. All premises reported in this category are visited by the Sanitary Inspector and advice given according to the degree of infestation and the general conditions of the premises. Steps are taken to ensure that all persons infested with Scabies in the family attend at the Cleansing Centre.

It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings under the Order.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The chief infectious diseases showed an increase as compared with 1943 and with the average for the preceding five years. The increase was mainly instanced by measles, notification of which was concentrated in the last 3 months of the year, there being 973 cases then notified as against 63 in the first 9 months of the year. In consequence of this November and December were the months of greatest prevalence of infectious disease. It is gratifying to note the decline in Diphtheria, there being 49 cases against 97 in 1943 and an average of 111 in the five years 1938-1942.

The notification of the various diseases totalled 1,918 as against 1,438, the previous year and an average of 1,370 during the five years 1938-1942. Comparative figures are given in the following summary :—

								Average 5 yrs. 1938-42
				1944	...	1943	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	275	...	250	...	159
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	49	...	97	...	111
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	97	...	98	...	114
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	35	...	34	...	39
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	160	...	268	...	145
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	218	...	199	...	107
Measles ...	...	...	...	1036	...	462	...	642
C.S. Meningitis ...	...	...	...	5	...	7	...	12
Other Diseases ...	...	...	...	43	...	23	...	41
				1918	...	1438	...	1370

Marland Hospital.

There were 660 cases admitted to this Hospital from the Rochdale County Borough and the neighbouring County districts, which together with 61 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1943, makes 721 cases treated during the year, as compared with 932 the previous year. Excluding the cases of Tuberculosis the case mortality was 2.0 per cent as compared with 2.1 per cent the previous year

Of the 48 cases of diphtheria occurring in Rochdale and admitted to Marland Hospital 9 cases were of a severe type and there was one death ; 20 cases were of moderate severity and 19 cases were of comparatively mild severity with no deaths in these groups. There was one death of a severe type case admitted to hospital in 1943, making a total of 2 deaths in hospital from the disease during 1944.

A summary of the cases admitted to Hospital is given below :—

DISEASE		In Hospital on 31st December 1943	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of Year 1944	Ages of Patients Admitted		
							Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever	...	48	385	402	...	31	94	257	34
Diphtheria	...	11	194	173	10	22	23	132	39
Enteric Fever	...	...	5	5	...	...	1	1	3
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	8	4	2	2	5	1	2
Measles	...	...	6	5	...	1	3	2	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	11	10	...	1	...	...	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	20	22	...	...	...	...	20
Chicken Pox	...	...	3	2	...	1	1	2	...
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases	...	...	28	23	3	2	13	6	9
Total	...	61	660	646	15	60	140	401	119

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The campaign of general propaganda referred to in last year's report was continued throughout the year in support of the national campaign.

The parents or guardians of each child are sent a card explaining the dangers of Diphtheria and the facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation on the child attaining the age of one, and the Health Visitors are provided with special cards which they again leave at the homes in the course of follow-up visits.

Immunisation continues to be available to the same extent as reported last year. These efforts throughout the year were effective in achieving immunisation in respect of 668 under five and 934 between the ages of 5 and 15. These figures compare with 881 under five and 644 between the age of 5 and 15 in 1943.

The year 1941 showed a very considerable advance over the previous three years, but since 1942 the advance has been very slow and gradual. The records begun in 1942, to show the immunisation position in each group under 15, were continued throughout the year and the results are given below as at the end of December, 1944, compared with 1943.

Age	Dec., 1944		Dec., 1943		Age	Dec., 1944		Dec., 1943	
	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%
1	495	41	527	44	8	531	52	402	40
2	612	50	555	52	9	518	51	510	49
3	590	55	696	71	10	622	58	567	59
4	749	75	507	54	11	628	65	713	69
5	627	65	430	42	12	743	71	466	43
6	571	56	382	37	13	488	45	486	42
7	568	55	389	38	14	490	40	443	39

Throughout the year A.P.T. was used in two doses of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with at least four weeks between doses.

During the year we had 33 children under 15 admitted to the hospital suffering from clinical diphtheria. Of these eight were severe cases with one death ; fifteen intermediate and ten mild cases. Out of this total twelve children were stated to have been immunised. Of these four were mild cases and seven intermediate cases, while none were severely ill.

In eight of these cases our records show that a full course of immunisation had been given not less than twelve weeks prior to the date of infection. Four of these cases were mild cases and four intermediate cases.

There were no deaths in the immunised group.

Immunisation against Diphtheria began in Rochdale in 1933 with a slow growth of numbers of immunised children, so that we may say that it was at least 1935 before a significant percentage of the children in Rochdale were immunised.

If, therefore, 1933 and 1934 are regarded as pre-immunisation years, it is now possible to make a comparison of 10 years experience with the 10 years prior to immunisation. In the first period 1925-34 inclusive, Diphtheria caused illness of varying severity in 1364 cases of which 323 were children below school age and 772 children of school age. These cases resulted in 100 deaths of which 45 and 49 were in the two age groups mentioned.

In the next 10 years, 1935-44 inclusive, there were 896 cases of Diphtheria, 147 under five and 550 of school age. These cases resulted in 39 deaths, 14 in the first age group and 22 in the second.

The figures given in the Table below show a decreased case mortality throughout the whole field of diphtheria, the decrease being most marked in the under five group, as well as a lower percentage of cases being recorded in the under five group.

DIPHThERIA INCIDENCE AND DEATHS IN TEN YEARS PERIODS ACCORDING TO AGE.

1925-34

	Notified Cases				Deaths			
Age in years :	0-5	5-15	15 and over	Total	0-5	5-15	15 and over	Total
Number :	323	772	269	1364	45	49	6	100
Percentage :	23.7	56.6	19.7	100	45	49	6	100
Case Mortality :	—	—	—	—	14	6	2	22

1935-44

	Notified Cases				Deaths			
Ages in years :	0-5	5-15	15 and over	Total	0-5	5-15	15 and over	Total
Number :	147	550	199	896	14	22	3	39
Percentage :	16.4	61.4	22.2	100	35.9	56.4	7.7	100
Case Mortality :	—	—	—	—	9.5	4	1.5	15

Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarlatina, Meningococcal and Erysipelas Sera were distributed from the Public Health Department to medical practitioners for use within the Borough. Outside the Department's hours, supplies are available at Marland Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 97 new cases of tuberculosis notified as against 98 the previous year and 105 in the year 1942, and an average of 113 during the five years 1937-1941.

In addition 11 cases, 7 Pulmonary and 4 Non-pulmonary, came to the knowledge of the Department for the first time other than by notification. Of these 2 Pulmonary and 3 Non-pulmonary were reported after death and 5 Pulmonary and 1 Non-pulmonary were transferred from other areas.

Comparative figures are given below :—

Average 5 year periods	NOTIFICATIONS		
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Total
1913—17	184	108	292
1923—27	85	40	125
1933—37	81	26	107
1938	89	27	116
1939	81	22	103
1940	82	32	114
1941	101	26	127
1942	68	37	105
1943	73	25	98
1944	71	26	97

The 97 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease are arranged in the summary below :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 years	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2
5—15 "	1	6	5	3	...	...	...	...
15—25 "	9	10	2	4	10	14	...	2
25—35 "	7	8	1	1				
35—45 "	10	1	...	...	7	4	2	2
45—55 "	8	1	1	1				
55—65 "	5	1	1	1				
65 years and over	4	...	1	1	4	...	1	1
TOTAL	44	27	13	13	21	18	3	7
1943	53	20	11	14	22	14	5	5

Now that the major experience of the war years is behind us comparisons of a preliminary character may be made in respect of Pulmonary Tuberculosis as between the experience in 1914 to 1918 and in 1939 to 1944.

Incidence 1914-18—The downward curve of notifications continued until 1915 when it was interrupted by an increase in 1916-18 and a very great increase in 1919, followed by a slow return to the line of the master curve about 1922.

Incidence 1939-44—The downward curve has been flattened out since about 1927 with actually a slight upward tendency. In respect of the war years there has been only one peak of any significance, namely in 1941, whilst 1942-3-4 had already dropped back to figures comparable with pre-war figures.

Mortality 1914-18—During the six years 1909-1914 the highest mortality rate marked was 1.10 per 1,000 of the population. In 1914 the figure rose to 1.27 and in 1916 to 1.32, with a gradual fall to 1.12 in 1920, becoming established below 1.00 in 1923.

Mortality 1939-44—The rate which had risen in 1932-34 to 0.65 fell gradually again to 0.46 in 1939. In 1940 the rate began to rise with 0.59, 0.67 and 0.53 in that and the two successive years, but in 1943 and 1944 the rate had dropped back again to 0.44 and 0.48, roughly comparable with the immediate pre-war figure.

TABLE I.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the County Borough of Rochdale.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate
1935	(6)41	(5)26	67	0.71	1940	(6)45	(7)37	82	0.93
1936	(6)53	(6)42	95	1.02	1941	(12)62	(6)39	101	1.18
1937	(9)50	(6)28	78	0.85	1942	(2)46	(2)22	68	0.82
1938	(17)62	(10)27	89	0.97	1943	(3)53	(-)20	73	0.90
1939	(3)43	(5)38	81	0.90	1944	(1)44	(6)27	71	0.87

TABLE II.

Notifications of Death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the County Borough of Rochdale.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate
1935	32	(2)25	55	0.58	1940	27	(1)24	51	0.59
1936	(1)28	(1)21	49	0.53	1941	34	19	53	0.67
1937	37	13	50	0.54	1942	25	19	44	0.53
1938	32	12	44	0.48	1943	22	14	36	0.44
1939	23	18	41	0.46	1944	21	18	39	0.48

The figures in brackets give the cases, either in incidence or mortality, under 15 years of age.

These figures do not tell the full story. Information has been got out comparing the effects of the war years on Borough patients with the effect of pre-war years. This information will be extended as soon as possible to include 1945 and shown in the next Annual Report.

In the meantime, it may be said that similar groups of patients fared better during the years of the war up to the end of 1944 than during the years immediately preceding the war.

It will be suggested in an expanded report on this subject that if the Local Authorities in this country can be classified according to their experience of war conditions, e.g. air-raids, bomb damage, etc., and their Tuberculosis records compared in these classes, much interesting information should become available as to the relative importance of certain causative factors in Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three clinic sessions have been held weekly and the number of new cases examined as suspected tuberculosis was 348 as against 340 the previous year.

In addition 75 persons were examined as Contacts as against 100 the previous year.

The result of the examinations showed that 65, or 18 per cent, of the new cases were suffering from some form of tuberculosis, chiefly tuberculosis of the respiratory system, as against 92 or 27 per cent. in 1943. Four of the 75 Contacts were found to be definitely tuberculous as compared with three out of 100 the previous year.

In addition 146 men were examined by the Medical Officer chiefly under the Local Government Superannuation and Silicosis Schemes and Civilian Medical Boards.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in the summary below :—

	1944	1943
Number of New Cases examined (excl. Contacts)	348	340
Total Number of Attendances of Patients	2,672	2,660
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1944—		
Highest 36—Lowest 9)	18	18
Number of Contacts examined	75	100
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year	134	222
Personal and other Consultations by Tuberculosis		
Officer	1,200	1,155
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses	2,465	2,339
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary	12	10
(Year 1944—Negative 1)		
X-Ray Examinations	374	333

Standard Maintenance Allowances.

The Standard Maintenance Allowances Scheme for Pulmonary Tuberculosis introduced in May, 1943, in accordance with Memo. 266T. has been continued during the year, together with Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments where required.

During the year Standard Allowances have been made to 61 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis coming within the definitions laid down, and in 1 case extension of allowance has been made with the approval of the Ministry. Special Allowances have been made in 3 cases and no Discretionary Allowances have been made.

As indicated in last year's Report this Scheme has continued to be highly acceptable to the Tuberculosis patient and his or her dependants. It has proved itself to be a step in the right direction of removing many difficulties in the way of adequate and early sanatorium treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

It is felt, however, that after 18 months of working the dimensions of the Scheme can be reasonably assessed by the Government Department concerned and that the Department might well consider an extension of the Scheme. With advantage to the working of the Scheme and at no great additional cost certain time limits in treatment might be removed and a wider view taken of dependancy and wage earners.

Consideration might also be given to the removal of the official barrier to the granting of allowances where the return of the patient to working capacity is doubtful, but always continuing the proviso that treatment must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Although the distinction between Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis is easy to see from the point of view of the administrator, it is not so easily appreciated by the incapacitated Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis patient and his dependants, and here again some discretion might be allowed to the Tuberculosis Officer with, at any rate in the early stages, the submission of individual cases to the Ministry of Health for approval.

Other Financial Assistance.

Necessitous cases of tuberculosis were also assisted in various ways during the year :—

	1944	1943
(a) Clothing and footgear provided	2 ...	1
(b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc.	23 ...	37
(c) House rent paid from a special Fund during residence of patient in Sanatorium	2 ...	4
(d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing—Loans	2 ...	2
(e) Sets of Dentures provided	— ...	3

On the general question of house accommodation for families where a member is suffering from tuberculosis, a Joint Committee of the Health and Housing Committee has decided to give preference where possible to the tenancy of a Corporation dwelling-house.

Residential Treatment.

There were 42 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1943, and during the year 75 other patients (46 males, 29 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

Institutions	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1943	Admissions			Discharged during 1944	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1944
		Total	Males	Females			
Wolstenholme Pulmonary							
Hospital	18	32	32	—	37	5	8
Springfield Sanatorium ...	13	14	—	14	14	9	4
Stannington Sanatorium ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Memorial Home, Norden ...	7	7	3	4	5	—	9
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	3	15	5	10	16	—	2
Other Sanatoria	1	7	6	1	6	—	2
TOTAL	42	75	46	29	78	14	25

Springfield Sanatorium.

This institution, situated adjoining Springfield Park, provides accommodation for 36 female patients, one half of which is reserved for women patients residing in the area of the Lancashire County Council. In addition to 15 Rochdale patients admitted there were 35 patients admitted from the Lancashire County and other Areas, and 6 patients from the area of the London County Council transferred under the Emergency Medical Services arrangements, making 56 in total, as against 55 the previous year.

Artificial Pneumothorax Inductions were successful in 4 cases, 2 of Borough patients and 2 of County patients ; 1 induction was unsuccessful in the case of a County patient, 578 Refills were performed ; 468 to Borough patients and 110 to County patients.

Phrenic Evulsion was performed in 1 case of a County patient.

510 X-ray examinations (with films) were made during the year ; 391 of these were of out-patients from the County Borough ; 98 were of in-patients of the Sanatorium (30 being Borough cases and 68 being Lancashire County Council cases) ; and 21 examinations were of Nursing Staff contacts of these patients.

A further 526 X-ray examinations without films, i.e., screen examinations, were made during the course of and as a guide to treatment ; of these, 435 examinations were on behalf of Borough in-patients and out-patients and 91 on behalf of Lancashire County Council in-patients.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk or dairy trade who are suffering from tuberculosis, while the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. • No occasion has arisen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

No change has taken place in the clinic arrangement for dealing with this disease. There were 565 cases (288 males and 277 females) dealt with during the year, as against 565 in 1943. The number of new cases was 325 which is below the average for the years prior to the war.

The following summary gives the number of cases dealt with during the past three years :—

	Year	1944	1943	1942
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
1. No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year		226	224	206
2. No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection		6	3	8
3. No. of cases who have had previous treatment		13	13	4
4. No. of new cases		320	325	233
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total cases dealt with		565	565	451
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
5. Total attendances—For attention of Medical Officer		6,366	7,826	7,125
For irrigation, dressing, etc.		6,581	8,344	6,821
6. No. who ceased to attend—				
(a) Before completion of treatment		21	29	25
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure		—	7	4
7. No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal		245	275	183

Rochdale and District has not been affected by the major changes in population and employment which have occurred in many other districts due to war-time conditions, and which are often reflected in the Venereal Diseases returns.

Pathological Examinations.

The arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens referred from the clinic and examined at the Laboratory number 640 as compared with 643 the previous year.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1944,
and previous years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	LIVE BIRTHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett		Under 1 year of age		At All Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live B rths	Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population
1934	94,450	1170	12.4	91	78	1376	14.6
1935	94,100	1094	11.6	93	85	1311	13.9
1936	93,250	1096	11.8	76	69	1408	15.1
1937	91,940	1093	11.9	58	53	1415	15.4
1938	91,290	1096	12.0	69	63	1271	13.9
1939	*90,300	997	11.0	55	55	1322	14.7
1940	†86,670	1072	12.4	96	89	1575	18.2
1941	†85,780	1136	13.2	76	67	1371	16.0
1942	†83,150	1276	15.3	90	71	1282	15.4
1943	†81,550	1268	15.5	58	46	1324	16.2
Average for years 1934-1943	89,248	1129	12.7	76	67	1365	15.3
1944	†81,380	1320	16.2	67	50	1174	14.4

* Estimated Population for Birth-rate. The corresponding figure for Death-rate is 89,830.

† „ Civilian Population

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.
Year 1944.

	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES ... Males ...	570	43	3	2	47	179	296
... Females	604	24	6	5	50	152	367
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	39	...	...	...	24	11	4
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	10	...	2	...	2	4	2
8—Syphilitic Disease	4	...	...	...	1	2	1
9—Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
10—Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
11—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12—Acute Infectious Encephalitis	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	5	...	...	...	1	1	3
Cancer of Uterus	12	...	...	...	2	3	7
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	39	...	...	...	4	15	20
15—Cancer of Breast	16	...	...	...	1	12	3
16—Cancer of all other sites	97	...	...	...	13	40	44
17—Diabetes	9	...	...	...	1	4	4
18—Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	147	...	...	...	2	34	111
19—Heart Disease	325	...	...	...	8	76	241
20—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	57	...	...	...	...	7	50
21—Bronchitis	92	1	...	...	5	34	52
22—Pneumonia	31	9	...	...	4	8	10
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	9	1	...	...	...	8	...
24—Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	15	...	...	...	3	7	5
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
26—Appendicitis	3	...	...	1	1	1	...
27—Other Digestive Diseases	24	1	...	...	5	6	12
28—Nephritis	39	...	1	...	6	12	20
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
31—Premature Birth	20	20	...	...	...	...	...
32—Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	28	28	...	...	...	...	...
33—Suicide	14	...	...	...	2	6	6
34—Road Traffic Accidents	8	...	...	1	1	3	3
35—Other Violent Causes	19	...	2	2	2	4	9
36—All Other Causes	102	5	...	3	7	31	56

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under one year of age—Year 1944.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH					Total Deaths under 1 year	
	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1944	1943
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	...	4	3	1	1	9	10
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Tubercular Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	7
Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Premature Birth	19	1	...	...	...	20	17
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc. ...	22	5	1	...	...	28	15
Violence ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	2	...	3	1	...	6	4
ALL CAUSES	43	11	7	4	2	67	58

Nett Live Births in the year :—Legitimate 1,237 ; Illegitimate 83.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 63 ; Illegitimate infants 4.

REPORT
ON THE
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1944, being the thirty-seventh report on the work of the School Medical Service. Following the practice of recent years this report is curtailed to essential information.

Staff.

The staff of the School Medical Service remains the same in strength, but there have been some alterations in personnel, both of the part-time Medical Officers and of the Consulting Aurist. Dr. Cammock died early in the year and Dr. Vernon T. Smith has now been appointed to do this work. The School Dental Service staff remains as last year.

School Premises.

The chief change is that the building of a new kitchen to extend the scope of the Meals Service has been started. It is hoped that this will be completed early in 1945.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The amount of routine medical inspection done in schools is much less than usual because first, the full-time Assistant Medical Officer was absent for three months on sick leave and second, she was single-handed during nearly all the rest of the year. In addition, the large attendances at the Consulting and Minor Ailments Clinics, together with the increasingly large number of special examinations now required for various reasons, leave little time for routine inspection. By the end of 1944, fourteen elementary schools and one central school had been inspected ; the open-air school was visited once weekly except during the three-month period referred to above.

Total Inspections during the year by Medical Officers :—

					1943		1944
					<hr/>		<hr/>
Routine Inspections :—							
Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	1,848	...	1,050
Secondary Schools	...	...	...	...	228	...	—
Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	283	...	259
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	585	...	141
Open-air School Inspections	...	...	...	...	2,685	...	2,618
Clinic Inspections	...	...	...	...	3,426	...	3,259
Clinic Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	4,379	...	3,921
					<hr/>		<hr/>
					13,434	...	11,248
					<hr/>		<hr/>
Cases seen by Ophthalmologist	...	...	...	...	531	...	460

Uncleanliness.

The School Nurses made 15,288 inspections for cleanliness during 1944, and found 86.99% clean and 13.01% unclean children. No improvement in this position can be expected at present, since the conditions producing it still operate. Eighteen verminous children were cleansed at the Cleansing Centres where Scabies is also treated. These were all voluntary cases where the illness or absence of the mother rendered the case a special one.

Three parents who had made no real attempt to cleanse their children were prosecuted, convicted and fined under the Attendance Bye-laws.

Scabies.

The arrangements made in 1942 for treating Scabies at First Aid Posts have been continued and found satisfactory. The Heybrook Centre was closed during the past year following the release of premises used for Civil Defence purposes.

There has been a further recent reduction both in the number of cases of Scabies found, also in the average severity of cases. Severe untreated Scabies with secondary infection is rarely seen now.

The following numbers were dealt with during the year :—

	1943	1944
Scabies diagnosed	582	478
Cases treated at Centres	554	474
Home treatments	23	3
Treated by family doctor... ..	40	22

In no case was treatment refused either this year or last year.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Once more the general nutritional standard of our children is well maintained. Indeed the average height and weight, especially of eleven-plus girls must have increased very considerably during the past few years and there is a marked impression that girls are much more mature in sex development as well as general physique on leaving school than they used to be.

Contrasting with the magnificent physique of the older girls, the poorest health and most unsatisfactory physical conditions among our children are found in small boys aged from six to nine. This has always been the case in this district, but the problems these children arouse have increased of late. At the Open Air School there is always a preponderance of little boys on the

waiting list and the same can probably be said of other institutions such as the Memorial Home (which admits debility cases as in-patients) and the various convalescent homes. This is but one aspect of the well-known phenomenon that boys always show further departures from the normal than girls. Thus the girls approximate more closely to the average, and as in physical health, so in educational attainment, behaviour and general adjustment to life. This must not be taken as meaning that the physique of the boys has not improved markedly, but the fact remains that they reach their maximum development later than the girls and from our point of view examples are, therefore, only found in the top classes of the Secondary School.

The condition with regard to unsatisfactory footwear in children continues. It is true that the people as a whole are suffering from shortage of boots and shoes, but the growing family seems to be the worst sufferer from every angle, short supply, price, coupon values, difficulty in getting repairs done and poor quality of repair work.

Minor Ailment Clinic.

The total attendances at this Clinic were 13,985 for 1944, and the number of individual cases 4,707. No special comment can be made on the types of case attending.

Defective Vision.

The Ophthalmologist held 38 Clinics and did 460 refractions, of these 30 were for children of pre-school age. The corresponding figures for 1943 were 40 Clinics, 531 refractions with 39 pre-school children.

Dental Clinic.

Report from Messrs. Young and Bickerdike, School Dental Officers :—

During the year the number of Departments inspected was 82. Thirty-one of these departments were inspected twice indicating a significant improvement in the general dental conditions and an approach to more frequent examination and treatment. A certain number of cases requiring orthodontic treatment were found and were referred to the Dental Hospital, Manchester.

There was no evidence of any general adverse condition of the gums. Sporadic cases were given suitable treatment and advice as to the care of the mouth.

Refusals apart, the condition of the teeth is satisfactory and no doubt will continue to improve.

As shown in Table IV. the total number of children inspected was 14,343 as compared with 9,413 in 1943, of these 7,726 (55%) were found to require treatment as against 5,388 (57%) in 1943 and the number in which treatment was actually accepted and carried out was 4,043 compared with 3,678 in 1943.

Child Guidance Clinic.

The following report is supplied by the Medical Director, Dr. M. Hughes :—

TABLE I.

	1941		1942		1943		1944		Total
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Number referred ...	43	...	54	...	73	...	51	...	221
Number dealt with	13	...	58	...	52	...	72	...	195
Number awaiting examination ...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	26

TABLE II.

Number of New Cases dealt with in 1944	...	...	...	72
Examined in the Clinic	...	...	...	<hr/>45
Withdrawn from the Waiting List	...	...	...	27
(i) Symptoms improved, parents considered examination unnecessary	...	...	...	9
(ii) Parents unwilling for examination	...	...	...	3
(iii) Left school before appointment sent, parents indifferent	...	...	...	6
(iv) Left the district	...	...	...	3
(v) Transferred to Liverpool Child Guidance Clinic	...	...	...	1
(vi) Referred before 1943, no further information ,	...	...	...	5
			TOTAL	<hr/> 72 <hr/>

TABLE III.

Of the 45 examined in the Clinic :—

Treatment recommended	...	...	...	...	...	34
Diagnostic with recommendations	...	...	...	...	...	11
(i) Condition due to Mental Deficiency and Backwardness	...	...	...	...	...	5
(ii) Institutional Treatment recommended	...	...	...	...	...	3
(iii) Unalterable environmental difficulties	...	...	...	...	...	2
(iv) Physical condition	...	...	...	...	...	1
			TOTAL	...	...	<hr/>45 <hr/>

TABLE IV.

Treatment :—

(i)	Treatment recommended in 1944	...	...	...	34
	Carried forward from 1943, under Treatment	...	...	...	13
	Carried forward from 1943, awaiting Treatment	...	...	...	14
					<hr/> 61
					<hr/> <hr/>
(ii)	Treatment undertaken in 1944	...	...	...	32
	Under Supervision	...	...	...	3
	Awaiting Treatment, carried forward to 1945	...	...	...	18
	Left school before Treatment started	...	...	...	1
	Left district before Treatment started	...	...	...	1
	Parents do not wish for Treatment	...	...	...	5
	Treatment postponed owing to mother's illness	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
	TOTAL	...	...	...	61
					<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE V.

Closed in 1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
							<hr/>
Completed Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rapid superficial improvement, parents satisfied	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Partial improvement, closed for lack of parental co-operation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Parents unco-operative	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Child unresponsive	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Placement recommended	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Evacuees returned to London...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Treatment recommended, not undertaken (See Table IV(ii))	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
							<hr/>
							TOTAL ... 31
							<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE VI.

Sources of Reference :—	1941	1942	1943	1944
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Education Department	2	5	3	3
School Medical Department	13	8	34	16
Maternity and Child Welfare Department	2	7	13	8
Speech Therapist	3	8	3	—
Teachers	15	17	6	10
Magistrates	6	—	4	7
Private Practitioners	2	3	2	—
Parents	—	5	8	3
Other Social Agencies	—	1	—	1
Billeting Officer	—	—	—	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	43	54	73	51
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Work of the School Nurses.

	1943	1944
Dressings etc. at morning clinics	6,312	13,985
Cleanliness Inspections... ..	14,974	15,288
Re-inspections	3,599	4,230
Inspections with Medical Officer :—		
At School	2,725	4,068
At Clinics	4,418	7,180
Refraction Cases	531	460
Open Air School Inspections	2,517	2,618
Home Visits	236	141
	<u>35,312</u>	<u>47,970</u>

Infectious Diseases.

	1943	1944
Scarlet Fever	181	207
Diphtheria	42	30
Measles	288	773
Whooping Cough	177	97
Chicken Pox	199	218
Other Infections	3	2
	<u>890</u>	<u>1327</u>

The usual crop of squints consequent on the measles epidemic was found at the routine medical inspections.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 1,080 children have received two injections of A.P.T. at school and 141 at the clinic, giving a total of 1,221. In addition, a number of children have been immunised at the Nursery Schools by the Child Welfare Medical Officer before entering elementary schools. Neither at the clinic nor at the schools is immunisation confined to children of school age.

Day Open Air School.

At various stages during another busy year 65 children were discharged ; they were all cured or much improved and had been admitted for the following defects :—

	Girls	Boys
Rheumatism	—	1
Malnutrition	5	6
Pre and post Tuberculosis	3	9
Heart Disease	—	1
Bronchitis	3	5
Other non-tubercular affections of the chest ...	1	1
Nervous Conditions	6	—
Orthopaedic Defects	1	2
Anaemia and Debility	2	6
Cases admitted for observation	4	4
Miscellaneous	3	2
	<u>28</u>	<u>37</u>

Nursery Schools.

Although the number of children accepted at the four nursery schools was raised for a time to the figure of 100 on the roll with the object of having children in actual attendance up to the maximum capacity of 80 in each school, many children have still had to be refused admission.

The average attendance and the average number on the waiting list was as follows :—

	Average attendance	No. on Waiting List
Brimrod	67	101
Howard Street	68	65
South Street	63	77
Thames Street	74	94

The medical supervision of the children at the schools by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitors of the district in which the schools are situated has continued on the same lines as in previous reports and the same arrangements have been continued whereby the children can share in all the facilities available through the School Medical Services.

Special attention has continued to be paid during the year to the cleanliness of the children and on the whole it can be stated that the condition, particularly as to cleanliness of the children's heads has improved and that more co-operation is received from the mothers. For the most part it is found that infestation occurs in the same families time after time and it is especially noticeable after holiday periods.

In addition to the assistance given by the Health Visitors to the Superintendents in promoting cleanliness of the children, the Health Visitors are also able to assist in the necessary liaison between the Superintendents and the homes of the children and in the treatment of minor ailments in the children attending the schools.

Diphtheria immunisation was carried out at all schools in respect of children who have not been immunised at the Child Welfare Clinics and at one school a small number of children was Schick tested after immunisation and in all cases negative reactions were obtained.

16 children were referred to the Crippled Children's Orthopaedic Clinic for orthopaedic defects and 27 have had Ultra Violet Ray Therapy in respect of general debility.

22 children were sent for examination to the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist and 28 cases were referred to the Eye Specialist, mainly for strabismus.

The Women's Voluntary Service very kindly continued to assist in conveying the children to the Clinics where mothers were unable to do so because of working hours.

The average gain in weight of the children for the year was :—

Brimrod ...	...	...	...	5½ lbs.
Howard Street ...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
South Street ...	...	...	...	4¾ lbs.
Thames Street ...	...	...	...	4¾ lbs.

Anaemia continued to be noted in a considerable percentage of children. During March, Whooping Cough caused many absentees, June and July, the same effect was caused by Mumps, while in the last session of the year a widespread epidemic of Measles reduced the attendance very materially for a few weeks, in some cases by as much as 50 and 60%. The Measles was of a milder type and did not result in any serious sequelae, but on the other hand the epidemic was of high infectivity in that it appeared to affect every child who had hitherto escaped infection.

The activities of the mother's clubs were continued, programmes being agreed between the Superintendents and the mothers. These activities included cookery demonstrations, talks on residential nurseries, film shows on Nursery School subjects, as well as talks on subjects of general interest.

The Medical Officer visits each week in order to examine new entrants and any special cases. In addition, a medical inspection is carried out quarterly at which all routine cases are re-examined.

Meanwood War-Time Nursery Class.

This class was opened in January, 1943, for the convenience of working mothers in this district for children from 2 to 5 years of age. The class is open for the reception of children from 7-0 a.m. to 7-0 p.m. the times outside normal school period being covered by Child Care Reserve personnel.

The same general remarks as made with regard to the Nursery Schools can be applied to the Nursery Class. The average number on the register for the year was 38.5 and the average attendance 25, with a waiting list of 34.

28 children were referred to the various Specialist Services, 2 for Orthopædic defects, 7 for Eye defects, 7 for Ear, Nose and Throat defects and 12 for Ultra Violet Ray Therapy.

The arrangements for the medical supervision of the Class remain as outlined in the last Report.

Speech Clinic.

This Clinic is still closed as there is no Therapist.

Orthopædic Clinic.

Dr. Bateman treated 75 new cases during 1944, with his unfailing skill and care :—

Kyphosis	...	...	...	...	1
Foot Deformities	...	...	...	...	57
Postural Defects	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	...	15
					—
					75
					==

The large preponderance of foot defects persists, as does the unsatisfactory condition of many children's footwear.

In-Patient Treatment of Debility.

Dr. Bateman has also examined 46 children suffering from debility and found them suitable for admission to the Memorial Home. All debilitated children and especially overwrought and excitable children benefit exceedingly in the calm and peace of the Memorial Home. Hay fever, various skin eruptions, gastro-intestinal disturbances, nervous anorexia, habit spasms and other nervous disorders have benefited in this manner. Catarrhal infections of the nose, throat, larynx and trachea, leading in many cases to bronchial catarrh and chronic bronchitis, have been relieved in great measure in the clear and fresh moorland air.

It is usual for asthmatic cases to be completely free from attacks while in attendance at this special school.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

During 1944, 253 children were referred to this Clinic, of these 140 received operative treatment and 113 received other forms of treatment.

Periodical Weighing of Children.

The six-monthly weighing of all children at three of our largest schools has continued :—

	1943	1944
Number weighed	2,064	2,524
Number who have gained weight	99.85%	99.366%
Number who have remained stationary	0.00%	0.435%
Number who have lost weight	0.15%	0.198%

The parents are interviewed when a child is found to have lost weight or remained stationary and usually it is found that an illness is the obvious cause. The Open Air School or other suitable treatment is recommended where needed.

Provision of Meals.

During 1944, 28,535 free dinners have been supplied, the number in 1943 was 54,011. The number of dinners for which payment was made was 440,964 in 1944 and 405,619 in 1943.

An additional canteen has been opened at All Saints C. of E. School, making a total of 28 canteens. The food is cooked at Brownhill kitchens and an additional kitchen is now being erected.

Meals for pupils at the High School for Girls are cooked on the school premises and 360 dinners are served daily. Nursery Schools food is also cooked in the Schools' own kitchens.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

Our thanks are again due to the N.S.P.C.C., the St. Annes' Convalescent Home and the Moorland Home for assistance in their various capacities.

Clog Fund.

No clogs were provided in 1944.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

The number of school children medically examined prior to registration as part-time workers was 242 during 1944.

Cost of Medical Inspection.

The costs of this Department from the 1st April, 1943 to the 31st March, 1944, were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	3472	12	6
Printing, Stationery and Postage	120	1	7
Drugs, Materials, Apparatus, Spectacles	548	8	4
Hospitals, Nursing Associations, etc.	920	13	2
Travelling	76	18	4
Rent	490	19	10
Upkeep of Premises	12	19	11
Fuel, Light and Cleaning... ..	13	16	5
Conveyance of Children	92	16	6
Aural Clinics and Eye Specialists Fees	143	6	6
Other Expenses	49	17	2
	<hr/>		
	£5942	10	3
	<hr/>		
Recovered from parents	£281	11	5

The year under review has been beset with staffing difficulties which have naturally been reflected upon the volume of work performed.

I have, therefore, all the more pleasure in expressing appreciation of the way in which the essential services have been maintained by the Medical, Dental and Nursing Staff of the Department.

I have also to acknowledge the encouragement and support of the Education Committee, and in particular, the School Medical Services Sectional Committee and the Director of Education.

John Lums.

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ROCHDALE.

25/9/45.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection and Treatment Returns**Year ended 31st December, 1944.**

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections :—

Entrants	—
Second Age Group	590
Third Age Group	461
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Total	1,051
Number of other Routine Inspections...	—
<hr/>								
Grand Total	1,051

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 5,683

TABLE II.

**Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year
in the routine age-groups**

Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1051	72	6.85	926	88.11	53	5.04	—	0.00

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under
the Authority's Scheme : 4,707.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	460
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—
Total	<u>460</u>

No. of children for whom spectacles were:—

(a) Prescribed	406
(b) Obtained	323

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment	140
Received other forms of Treatment	113
Total number	<u>253</u>

TABLE IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist—

(a) Routine age-groups	13952
(b) Specials	391
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	14343

(2) Number found to require treatment 7726

(3) Number actually treated... .. 4043

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment... .. 4741

(5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection ...	134		
Treatment ...	677	Total ...	811

(6) Fillings—Permanent teeth ...	2922		
Temporary teeth ...	325	Total ...	3247

(7) Extractions—Permanent teeth ...	608		
Temporary teeth ...	4230	Total ...	4838

(8) Administrations of General anæsthetics for extractions 338

(9) Other operations ... Permanent teeth	315		
Temporary teeth	285	Total ...	600

TABLE V.—Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	9
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	15288
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	1988
(iv.) Number of individual children cleansed under Sec. 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	3

TABLE VI.—Blind and Deaf Children.

No. of totally, or almost, blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to all such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution
Blind Children...	—	—	—
Deaf Children ...	—	—	—

TABLE VII.—School Medical and Dental Staff.

		Portion of time served to :—	
		S.M.Services	Public Health
S.M.O.	Dr. J. Innes ...	...one-sixth	... five-sixths
A.S.M.O.s	Dr. Nora Mills	...whole	... none
	Dr. Muriel Knox	...two sessions per week	... none
	Dr. J. M. Hanrahan	...two sessions per week	... whole except two sessions
	Dr. Gladys Montgomery	...one-tenth	... nine-tenths
Dentists	Mr. R. J. C. Young.		
	Mr. Bickerdike.		
	Mr. Gledsdale, serving with H.M. Forces.		

School Nursing Service.

		Time given to S.M.S. Work			
School Nurses ...	five	...	...	...	all
Dental Attendants ...	two	...	...	...	„

